

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00089 121609Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0089

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM VISIT TO TURKEY

REF: (A) STATE 005883, (B) NICOSIA 0086

1. WHEN WE ASKED GORGE FOR BRIEFING ON WALDHEIM VISIT TO ANKARA, HE GAVE US A COPY OF A NEWS REPORT ON ECEVIT JANUARY 9 PRESS CONFERENCE (REF B) WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "A REMARKABLY DETAILED AND ACCURATE ACCOUNT" WHICH COVERED "TO A GREAT EXTENT" THE POINTS DISCUSSED. GORGE IS BASING HIS OWN REPORT OF THE TALKS ON THIS DOCUMENT. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR ON JAN 10, TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON READ FROM A SIMILAR REPORT IN A TURKISH NEWSPAPER AND SAID THAT ECEVIT IS KNOWN FOR SAYING THE SAME THINGS IN PUBLIC THAT HE SAYS IN PRIVATE.

2. GORGE ADDED DETAILS AS FOLLOWS. HE ASKED TO BE CAREFULLY PROTECTED ON THESE POINTS.

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A. ECEVIT DESIRES RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY IN FEBRUARY.

B. ECEVIT SAID TURKISH CYPRIOTS SHOULD SUBMIT A MAP AND REDRAFT OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS WHEN TALKS RESUME.

C. WHILE GREECE AND TURKEY WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT INTEREST IN CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS, TURKEY WILL NOT INSIST ON GOC AND GOT TAKING PART IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES. (ONHON NOTED THAT EXACT TRANSLATION OF ECEVIT'S LANGUAGE ON THIS POINT WAS THAT THE CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES MUST HAVE TURKEY AND GREECE "BESIDE" THEM TO LEND ASSISTANCE. ONHON BELIEVED IT SIGNIFICANT THAT ECEVIT DID NOT SAY "PARTICIPATION" WOULD BE REQUIRED.)

D. ECEVIT STRESSED THAT THERE IS NO REASON FOR THE U.S. OR U.S.S.R. TO INTERFERE IN CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS (ON IN OTHER GRECO-TURKISH DISPUTES) BUT HE DID INDICATE THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE SUPERPOWERS TO "LEND ENCOURAGEMENT" TO THE PARTIES.

3. GORGE STRESSED THAT THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATIONS, ECEVIT WAS CAUTIOUS ON SUBSTANCE ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE COULD NOT SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY UNTIL HE RECEIVES VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. WALDHEIM WAS, AS NEWS REPORTS INDICATED, ENCOURAGED BY CONVERSATIONS WITH ECEVIT AND HOPES TO ANNOUNCE RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS DURING HIS JAN 14-16 VISIT TO CYPRUS.
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